The Valley Patriot

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Local Heroes Honored

Lawrence Exchange Club Award Police, Fire, & EMT's of the Year

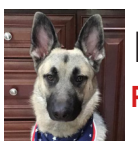
PAGE 14

The Lawrence Police Gang Unit was honored last month by the Lawrence Exchange club. Pictured above are Det. Sgt. Joe Beaulieu, Det. Edward Estrada, Det. Jose Nunez, Det. Sean O'Keefe, Det. Alexander Ovalles, and Det. Leo Silvera. The Lawrence Exchange honored police, fire, and EMT's at China Blossom in North Andover. See page 14.

INDEX

WEATHER WITH AI
Page 19

Vets.....1,5,15
Editorial/ State.....2,4,9,11
VALLEY PATRIOT BASH.....5
Crime.....9
Lawrence.....2,4,711-13, 20
Methuen.....2,9,13
Haverhill.....4
Notebook.....6-7
Dracut.....10,13
Health.....11
Pets/KANE.....15
Real Estate.....16
TV/Weather.....19
Religion.....20
Books.....23



Kane
PAGE 15

Rep. Campbell
State Rep.
PAGE 4

Brian Genest
Dracut
PAGE 10

Bill Cushing
TV TALK
PAGE 19

Valley Patriot of the Month

Scott Hyder; US Army - Founder/President, Hidden Battles Foundation

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Raised in Arlington, Massachusetts in veterans housing, and now living in Pelham, New Hampshire Scott Hyder, is the founder and current President of Hidden Battles. The non-profit organization strives to help preserve the healthy minds of veterans, fire fighters, police officers and other first responders. The organization's mission is to assist those in need of services, in locating treatment and counseling for depression, suicidal tendencies, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The February 2022 Valley Patriot article on John MacDonald, brought to light, to the Valley Patriot readers, the current veteran's suicide crisis among young veterans that is gripping our nation. Since the World Trade Center attacks, three times as many veterans have taken their own life, as had been killed in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11.

Scott served the Merrimack Valley for nearly two decades as a Westford Massachusetts Police Officer. On June 10, 2012, after not hearing from his brother Nick for a few days, Scott drove to his brother's house, only to find that Nick had taken his own life. Writing about that day on the Hidden Battles Website, Scott recalls the struggle he faced in the aftermath. "I'm not sure if there is one word or one emotion to describe the feeling over this loss. I was devastated, confused, torn up, sad for Nicky, sad for his children … angry."

After Nick's suicide, Scott began to work with a local suicide prevention and awareness team. As a member of Team Forever Young, Scott and his teammates participated in numerous "Out of The Darkness Walks", sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (ASFP). Team Forever Young became AFSP's national top fundraising team, raising over $250,000 to date. Scott has publicly spoken on many occasions to people of all ages about suicide, suicide prevention and awareness.

Scott has seen the devastation to those left behind, "Suicide is not openly spoken about, and many people still find shame in admitting that they lost loved ones to suicide". He started this foundation with the hopes of providing not only those individuals suffering, but also their families with a safe, non-judgmental environment for healing and coping.

One of the heartwarming stories Scott told me over breakfast at Pelham, New Hampshire's "Broken Yoke", was that of Harry Bologna, a retired Navy Seal, and double amputee from Virginia. The Seal got the surprise of his life when the Hidden Battles Foundation organized a surprise face-to-face meeting with his longtime hero, Lowell's Irish Micky Ward. Hidden Battles was running a virtual fundraiser, at the event, Master Chief Bologna won a personalized, autographed Micky Ward boxing glove donated by Team Micky Ward Charities. After learning the Master Chief was driving up I-95 on his way to Maine, Hidden Battles arranged a surprise in person presentation of the Boxing Glove by Micky Ward.

HERO: PAGE 14

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If You Don't Agree with Me You Are A Nazi

Below you will read a column by Valley Patriot columnist Dani Langevin.

Langevin is a teacher in the Methuen Public Schools and decided to go on an angry rant because our editorial last month advocated for children to celebrate Valentine's Day they way they want to, instead of having "woke" educators pushing their political view on kids and changing Valnetine's Day to "Spirit Day"!

To Ms .Langevin and educators like her, letting kids celebrate Valentines day the way they want to is the exactly the same as Kyle Rittenhouse going out with a gun and shoting people.

Get it yet?

We wrote an editorial saying teachers and administrators need to back off from students who want to celebrate holidays the way they want, and that makes us NAZIS, it makes us haters of special needs children, it makes us supporters of slavery. Apparently public school teachers are more interested in teaching their political version of "respect and humility" while they are failinlg to teach our kids in the sunbjects we pay them to teach.

Afer all, if we didn't have public school teachers like Ms. Langevin to teach her version of "respect and humanity" they might just learn it from their parents and teachers like Langevin can't have that. Parents may have different values than the left wing activists in our schools so, of course she has attack us to prevent this idea of free thought and free choice from taking hold among students and parents.

Truly the concept of kids making their own decisions and doing whatever they want when it comes to celebrating Valnetines day is truly frightening to left wing educators Like Dani

"This is what people use to scare parents into thinking we, as educators, have some nefarious reason to do what we do and we have some sort of superhuman power to change the thought process of your children."

I think Ms. Langevin just proved our point. If you don't agree with her definition of "inclusion" and want to give children the rights to make their own choices on things like Valentine's Day then you are just a NAZI who believes "parents who have a child with medical, emotional, learning, or any other disorders, your children are not welcome."

This is what is called a straw man argument. To pretend that someone else's view is REALLY about something else and then rail against that something else, thereby changing the subject.

YE GAY O'LE VALLEY : Let the Kids Do What They Want?

Dani Langevin
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Last month someone wrote an editorial about public schools interfering in the socialization of students. I'm having a hard time understanding what this person is talking about and the point of their whining. The writer asked the question, "Why can't our school leaders just back off and let kids do what they want to do?" (On Valentine's Day)

Am I the only one saying, "Because they WILL do whatever they want to do,"? Is the writer that deficient of common sense that they really don't see what would happen if we let kids do what they want? Remember Kyle Rittenhouse? He did what he wanted.

(Editor's Note: Kyle Rittenhouse defended himself against a criminal mob and was found not guilty on all charges in a court of law).

Another statement made was, "Inclusion and other highly political views have no place in public schools." Yup, that's right. So, all of you parents who have a child with medical, emotional, learning, or any other disorders, your children are not welcome.

Why should we force anyone's child to deal with another child's learning issues? What about when they are from another culture? Apparently, we should not tolerate or accept their experiences or traditions. Should they be excluded because they don't think, dream or worship like YOU think they should?

The term "highly subjective political views" is highly subjective. What does that mean? Does it mean we can teach about slavery only from the side of the slave owner and not the enslaved? That's what it sounds like to me. Do you still want to teach that the enslaved were happy to be where they were and without their white owners they wouldn't survive? Is that not highly subjective? Or better yet, that the enslaved "immigrated" here as some textbooks states completely ignoring the human trafficking the US participated in for three centuries.

That beautifully ugly term "Indoctrinate" was thrown in for good measure. This is the vocabulary flavor of the month. This is what people use to scare parents into thinking we, as educators, have some nefarious reason to do what we do, and we have some sort of superhuman power to change the thought process of your children. If teachers could indoctrinate, as I believe you understand the word, we'd control the world. Teachers didn't write the history, science, literature, or math equations. We teach them. Stop shooting the messenger.

The fact that this editorial is about Valentine's Day makes it laughable. Valentine's Day is not even a holiday. But it's "a day for ROMANCE," says the author of the editorial. Romance in elementary school? How would you feel if the teacher brought up the subject of romance in their elementary school classroom? I'm sure parents would not be happy. Yet here it is being offered by an adult to children. And if you want to go with the romance theme, what if a little girl gave a little girl a card or a little boy gave another little boy a card? Is that type of romance prohibited or accepted?

And what about the abuse thrown at educators: "Public school teachers and administrators can barely educate kids in the subjects they need…" Isn't that nice. Let's give licenses to more people to bash teachers. I particularly loved the commentary from a Methuen mother who obviously hates the system and yet put all of her children through it.

What does that make her? What colorful language do you use for a mother who sent all of her children to an institution for 12 years that she truly believes was damaging them? What mother would do that? If she really hated it that much, why would she send them? I question her as a parent.

Did the Methuen school committee actually say, "...public educators just can't help but involve themselves in the way children socially interact,"? If not, shame on you for saying that.

You say out of one side of your mouth that we shouldn't be interacting with their socialization and out of the other side you are doing that exact same thing: getting involved in what kids can and can't participate in in school. Do you not see that?

VALENTINES DAY! This is what you are screaming about. A day created by card companies to take your money. A day to remind you that you don't treat your loved one the way you should every day. Yeah, that's worth space in a newspaper and it's certainly worth connecting it to the education of our youth. The ignorance of the general public when it comes to education is limitless. Perhaps the writer was right, we haven't been teaching them in the subjects they need: respect and humility. ◊

GREAT TAKE-OUT!

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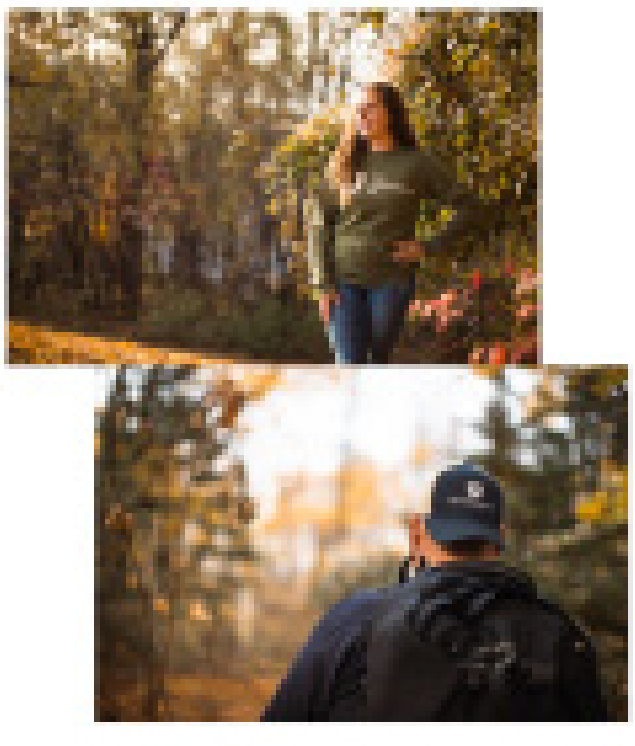
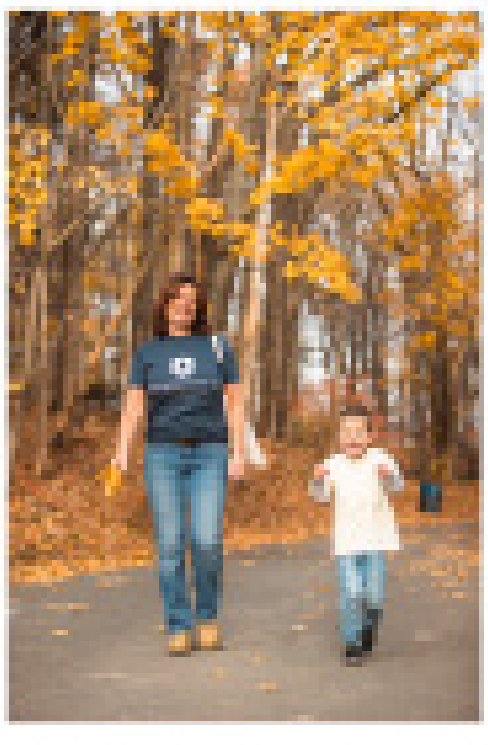




THERE WILL BE A BASH!!!

It's been three years since the Valley Patriot has held our annual charity BASH scholarship and award night but this year there WILL be a BASH! We plan on giving out at least six scholarships to deserving local students from Lawrence High, Methuen High, The Greater Lawrence Tech, Whittier Tech, and Haverhill High School (Michelle DeLuca Benedetti) as well as the Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship for a student who graduated from the Thomson School in North Andover.

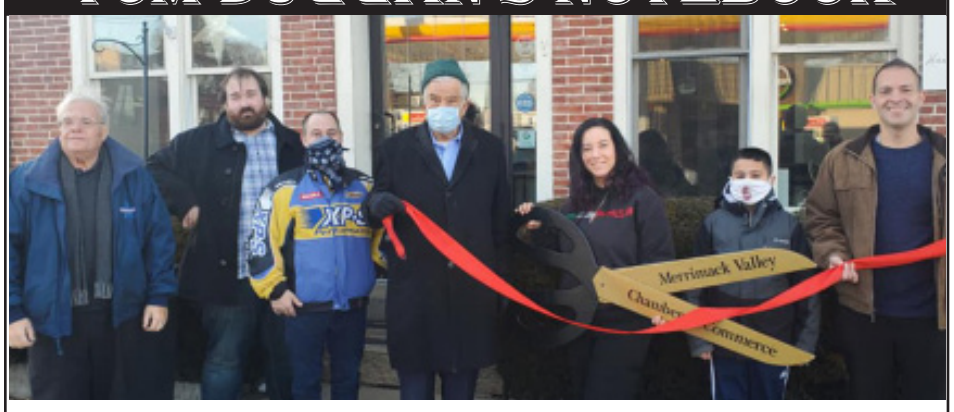
The event is Friday, April 8th at the Firefighters Relief In, 1 Market Street in Lawrence. Tickets can be obtained on eventbrite.com or at the Valley Patriot office. We are always looking for sponsors so please reach out to us if you would like to donate to a scholarship or sponsor the event. We will be giving out awards to police, fire, and veterans as well as a community service award. Email valleypatriot@aol.com for tickets or more info.

Scholarshps

Three candidates for state senate

Time for the Lawrence Superintendent to go

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK



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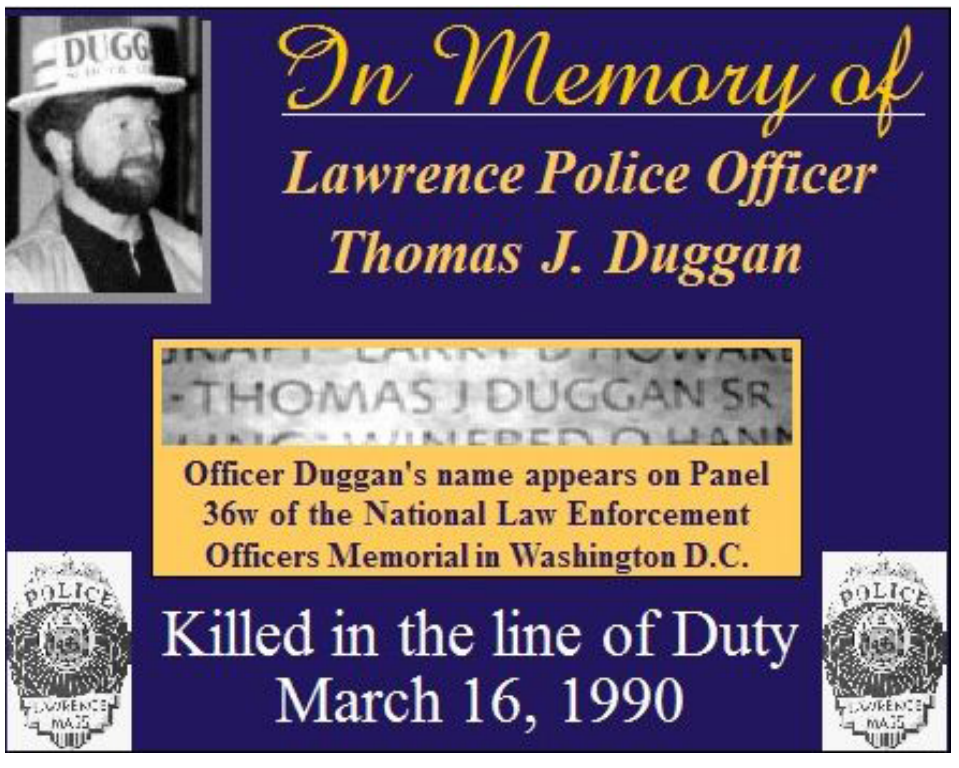
In Memory of
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Thomas J. Duggan
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Officer Duggan's name appears on Panel 36w of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C.
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March 16, 1990

KEEPING PROMISES: Lawrence Mayor to Renovate Buckley Garage

As a matter of precaution, the city of Lawrence inspected the conditions of the Buckley Garage at Amesbury Corner and Common St., to avoid the situation that was presented in Museum Square. The information that follows was taken from a report issued to the City of Lawrence which collects the team's observations to restore the John Buckley Parking Garage that is located at 99 Amesbury Street (on the corner of Amesbury and Common Street).

The primary work for the renovations to the Buckley Garage in Lawrence, MA will include the repairs and restoration to two existing four-story stairwells. Work includes, but is not limited to, the repairs to the stair treads and risers, painting the stairs and stairwell, and replacing the emergency lighting, providing new signage, providing new replacement emergency lighting and exit signs, and more.

As a matter of precaution and while funding for the project is appropriated, the City of Lawrence inspected the conditions of the Buckley Garage in order to get ahead of the issues and avoid the situation that presented itself at Museum Square.

The information that followed was from observations of a prior administrations team, without any follow-up. Once the issues were brought to the attention of the Mayor Brian De Peña, by DPW Director Jorge Jaime, who discovered that the stairs were in such a poor state that needed to be replaced. Upon further examination, several other repairs were believed essential in order to keep the garage in optimal conditions.

The main areas of deficiency on the interior of the garage are due to water damage, normal wear, and code requirements. Water penetration on the lower floors of the stairs in both towers has caused erosion to the metal structure and spalling of the concrete landings and treads. The fourth-floor elevator enclosure has water stains on the ceiling from a leak in the roof.

Accessibility entering and exiting the covered portion of the garage forces users to go back and forth between the sidewalk and asphalt roadway. Multiple blind spots for drivers and bus traffic along with the walking paths in their current state should be considered a pedestrian safety shortfall. Also, vehicular traffic entering the parking garage partially blocks pedestrian traffic due to the entrance gate location.

The existing garage has four major components from a traffic circulation point of view.

The first element is vehicular access to the garage.

The second element is vehicular circulation within the garage.

The third element is pedestrian and bicycle circulation around and within the garage.

The fourth element is the circulation of Merrimack Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) busses within the first-floor bus depot and intermodal terminal.

Pedestrian circulation within the garage is adequate. No attempt has been made to determine compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Architectural Access Board (MB) standards. However, there appears to be adequate pedestrian circulation within the garage itself. The sidewalks along Common Street and Amesbury Street are inadequate for appropriate pedestrian circulation. Numerous obstructions make pedestrian pathways substandard in terms of width relative to ADA/AAB standards. In addition, mostly the path of travel is entirely technically sufficient, pedestrian level-of-service is inadequate owing to the numerous obstructions. On Common Street, there is a primary switchgear station that significantly obstructs pedestrian travel, as well as numerous poles, and trees.

Existing electrical service appears to be sufficient for the existing loads in the building. Six car charges are located in the lower level. These devices are a recent addition to the building systems. No vehicles were being charged during the visit.

With the garage being renovated, this presents the city with the opportunity to eliminate the booths or replace them with state-of-the-art parking systems. The city is systematically upgrading all city-owned parking facilities. As part of that process, the city is upgrading all of its revenue collection systems. It would be logical to standardize revenue collection systems across the city by using the booth and revenue collection system currently being installed at the Common Street parking lot.

The other approach to revenue collection would be to use a radio frequency identification (RFID) system, either exclusively or just for permit parkers. For instance, permit parkers could be issued an RFID tag that activates the gates and allows for an expeditious exit from the facility.

Regardless of the method of revenue collection, the booths should be moved further into the garage to allow for adequate queuing without blocking the sidewalk or disrupting traffic in the travel lanes of the two adjacent streets. The recommendation is to allow sufficient queuing area for up to 3 vehicles in the garage. To provide queuing for three vehicles, the booths would need to be placed 60 feet from the back of the sidewalk at the entrances.

Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) Terminal

The first floor of the garage functions as the MVRTA bus terminal in downtown Lawrence. Known as the Buckley Transportation Center, this facility accommodates 16 service lines. Buses circulate every half-hour. All busses arrive at the Buckley Transportation Center

DEPENA: PAGE 25

Soldiers' Home Reform – House Bill is Not Right!

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

I have joined House Minority Leader Brad Jones and several of my colleagues in a bipartisan call for the immediate divestment of state pension funds that are tied to Russian-owned companies. We must join the international community in taking action to counter Russia's tyrannical attack on Ukraine. Putin has miscalculated based upon our weak response to Syria – it is a critical miscalculation that has reenergized democracies around the world. As a result, we have the opportunity to ensure that good can come from the devastating suffering of the Ukrainian people. It will require sacrifice on our part – but democracy is on the line.

Recently, it was well publicized that I voted against the Holyoke Soldiers' Home reform bill brought forth by House leadership and passed by the House. I owe you an explanation.

My reason for doing so is that this bill is fundamentally different than the bill filed by myself and Senator Mike Rush (a fellow Veteran) following the investigation of the Legislature's Special Committee on the Holyoke Soldiers' Home COVID-19 Outbreak. Our original bill addressed all recommendations resulting from the Special Committee's months-long investigation, while the bill passed by the House departs from these recommendations on many fronts.

Like the Inspector General (IG) of the Commonwealth, I have serious concerns about the bill passed by the House. The IG stated in written comments that: "the Office finds that the current and proposed structure for the governance and oversight of the Homes are flawed."

In my view, elected officials send members of the armed forces to war, and these citizens put their lives on the line for us. It follows, then, that elected officials must be responsible for Veteran care, and that authority and accountability for their care must be crystal clear.

The tragedy in Holyoke resulted in large part from a chain of command

that was not clear but muddled; a superintendent that should have been fired earlier but was not; and a superintendent that was not qualified to serve as superintendent of a long-term care facility.

In the bill filed following the Special Committee's investigation, Senator Rush and I took great pains to establish a clear chain of command from the superintendents to the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Governor. In the original bill, we gave the Governor clear official authority to appoint and fire the superintendent.

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The Wall That Heals is Coming to Methuen, Sept. 27th

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall and Mobile Education Center spreads healing legacy of The Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War

METHUEN – The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Methuen, MA on September 27 – October 2, 2022, at PFC Richard E. Potter Field on Pelham St. and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public beginning Wednesday, September 28 at 2:00 PM and ending Sunday, October 2 at 2:00 PM. The Wall That Heals honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

"We are honored to host The Wall That Heals here in Methuen. Not only does The Wall That Heals honor those who served in Southeast Asia during the war but also it symbolizes our respect for all those veterans in Methuen who served in uniform while affording residents from all walks of life, especially our young people, the opportunity to see in person this truly inspiring display," said Neil Perry, Mayor of Methuen.

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is pleased to bring The Wall That Heals mobile exhibit to Methuen to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to experience The Wall," said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF.

"Hosting The Wall That Heals provides an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War and educate visitors on the continuing impact of the Vietnam War on America."

"Nothing is more important to VVMF than the health and well-being of our Vietnam veterans and their families. We will work closely with the host to provide the best visitor experience while keeping the safety of our staff, volunteers, and visitors at top of mind," said Knotts.

The Wall That Heals is transported from community to community in a 53-foot trailer. When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center telling the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall, and the divisive era in American history.

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall.

The mobile Education Center exhibit includes: digital photo displays of "Hometown Heroes" - service members whose names are on The Wall that list their home of record within the area of a visit; digital photo displays of Vietnam veterans from the local area honored through VVMF's In Memory program which honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died as a result of their service; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall; educational exhibits told through items representative of those left at The Wall in D.C.; a replica of the In Memory plaque; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. The exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

"A big part of our success in bringing this great exhibit to Methuen will be participation of volunteers throughout the community," added Paul Jensen, Methuen Director of Veterans Services.

"We will need volunteers to set up and take down The Wall as well as man it 24-hr a day during its stay.

We will solicit volunteers later as the date approaches but right now we are looking for a Volunteer Coordinator and a Promotion Coordinator.

If you have experience in either of these areas or would like to be on the organizing committee, please contact me at City Hall." ◊

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From the Desk of Representative Marcos Devers

Supporting The Work and Family Mobility Act

February was, as expected, a busier and more productive month than the last in State Rep. Devers' office.

To begin with, the State House in Boston is once again open, and the Massachusetts legislature members and staff may now work from their congressional offices after more than 700 days remote.

And yet more good news, Rep. Devers' office saw an increase in constituent cases from January, opening nine new cases, dealing with unemployment appeals, immigration, and housing issues. For those who have questions or need assistance, Representative Devers can be contacted at marcos.devers@mahouse.gov.

In legislative news, Representative Devers co-sponsored five bills in February, and attended to his duties on the Ways and Means Committee during two hearings, as well as voting in two House sessions. He was also proud to attend meetings of the Gateway Cities Legislative Caucus, as well as the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

The most important bill on Representative Devers' agenda this month was the Work and Family Mobility Act, which aims to make it easier for individuals to get driver's licenses while still complying with the federal government's REAL ID program. This bill passed the house and is now up for consideration in the Senate.

This year's budget process (for Fiscal Year 2023) began when Governor Baker sent his initial proposed budget to the state legislature. As part of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Rep. Devers has attended many hearings this month regarding the governor's initial budget, where committee members can ask questions of Baker administration officials, in preparation for the House budget process. ◊

Improving EpiPen Access for Children

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

The prevalence of life-threatening allergies among children is on the rise. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported that food allergies in children increased by 50 percent between 1997 and 2011. It is estimated that currently 1 in 13 children has a food allergy, and more than 40 percent of those children have experienced a severe allergic reaction.

These are conditions that cause people to always be on alert regarding potential interactions with that allergen - to the point where some cannot even touch the surface of where certain foods were prepared.

Food allergy is the most common cause of anaphylaxis - and though there are eight food groups responsible for about 90 percent of allergic reactions, there are more than 170 different foods that have been reported to trigger an allergic reaction. Given the severity of anaphylaxis, we are fortunate to have a first line of treatment, epinephrine.

The first modern epinephrine auto-injector, however, EpiPen, has become the poster child for this nation's drug-pricing problem, with prices spiking more than 500 percent over a decade. One 2016 report found that the price of an EpiPen 2-pack increased from $106.32 in 2004 to $608.61 in 2016. The cost of the active ingredient in an EpiPen? About $1. Heather Bresch, the CEO of pharmaceutical giant Mylan, which manufactures EpiPen, herself even stated "...if EpiPen needed to be a catalyst to show the system is broken, then so be it."

In 2013, Congress passed legislation providing financial incentives to schools that keep epinephrine auto-injectors on hand. Mylan's response? Restrict schools' access to competing auto-injectors, as few as there are.

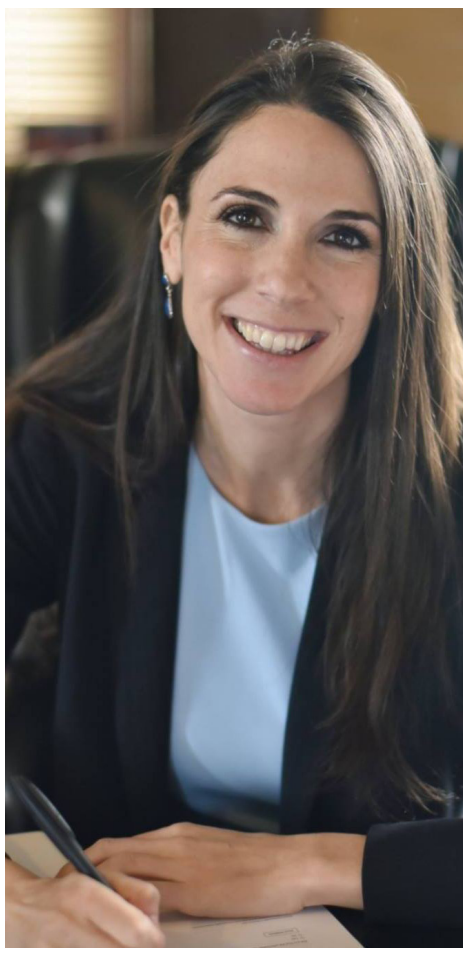
As adults, we have some measure of control over our surroundings. For children, exposure to a potentially fatal allergen can be completely inadvertent. More than 15 percent of school-aged children with food allergies have had a reaction in school. It is crucial that epinephrine be available for children with life-threatening allergies at all times and in all settings - at home, in school, with parents and other caregivers - to prevent needless loss of life. Families also need multiple epinephrine injector packs at any given time, compounding the cost.

Additionally, due to the one-year shelf life of the medication, it must be replaced often, regardless of whether it is ever used. This results in parents keeping injectors well past their expiration dates because they cannot afford new ones.

Having epinephrine injectors in hand is just one part of the additional cost caregivers face in raising children with food allergies. According to a recent USDA's Expenditures on Children by Families report, annual child-rearing expenses per child for a middle-income, two-parent family ranged from $12,600 to $14,700, depending on age. With the added costs identified by a recent national study, published in JAMA Pediatrics, of raising a child with a food allergy - including caretakers, special foods, special safe schools, camps, and other activities - these numbers climb to a range of $16,784 to $18,884. That is a $3,500 or 30 percent increase in the yearly cost of raising a child.

In response to this significant issue, I recently filed an amendment to legislation, the PACT Act 2.0., which requires the Center for Health Information Analysis to perform an impact analysis on the cost of providing epinephrine injectors to all minors and produce a report by June 2022.

It is imperative that we get these costs down. Price gauging by companies like the manufacturer of EpiPen is simply disgraceful. These pharmaceutical companies must come clean about the actual cost of production and stop exploiting a child's life-threatening condition to increase their profit margins.



The inclusion of this amendment in the PACT Act 2.0., comprehensive legislation focused on prescription drug cost containment and consumer protection, will take us one step closer to providing epinephrine injector coverage for all children of Massachusetts and holding these companies accountable.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at Diana.Dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,

Diana ◊

Former Apple/Tesla Employee Launches Sustainable Apparel Brand in the Valley

The Merrimack Company Focuses on Eco-friendly Manufacturing and 1% for the Planet

LAWRENCE – The Merrimack Company launched their first collection of sustainable, eco-friendly apparel and accessories designed in the heart of the Merrimack Valley. With a mission to help people "Stay Adventurous," the Lawrence-based brand offers a collection made from organic and recycled materials for eco-conscious consumers who enjoy, or want to begin, recreating outdoors.

"I've always wanted to create something that gives back to the community. I left high-powered tech roles in Silicon Valley to spend a year living in an RV traveling the country, which really helped me think about the importance of local community in a new and different way," said Ken Michienzi, founder, and CEO of The Merrimack Company. "When I returned home to the Merrimack Valley, which has a deep history in the Industrial Revolution, the idea to create a sustainable lifestyle brand with an outdoor focus became apparent. We want to modernize this area's legacy by offering apparel that is kinder to the planet."

The Merrimack River was home to textile manufacturing during the Industrial Revolution, when poor environmental practices were common prior to the industry's move overseas. Today, the river is a source of drinking water and recreational opportunities for many communities and is well known for its historic mills in key cities in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The Merrimack Company was founded in a converted mill building, powered by renewable energy, with the goal to bring fashion back to the Merrimack Valley, with a sustainable twist.

"We are laser-focused on constant improvement," said Jerrame Goddard, co-founder and vice president of sales and partnerships. "We recognize that any product we produce, and sell will have an impact on the environment, so we will constantly challenge ourselves to find ways to minimize that impact."

The Merrimack Company is committed to partnering with global manufacturers with ethical labor practices, while leveraging US-based businesses for screen printing and other skilled services. The brand is also a 1% for the Planet member, donating a portion of proceeds to the Clean River Project, a non-profit based in Methuen, Mass., working to protect and preserve the Merrimack River.

For more information about The Merrimack Company and to take a closer look at their first collection, click here.

The Merrimack Company, headquartered in Lawrence, Massachusetts, is a provider of high-quality, eco-friendly, and sustainable apparel and accessories perfectly suited for outdoor adventures. The brand is a 1% for the Planet member and is dedicated to having a lighter footprint on the planet, leveraging organic and recycled materials and earth-friendly manufacturing processes. Connect with The Merrimack Company at https://merrimackco.com/ or on Instagram / Facebook and remember to #StayAdventurous. ◊

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FEDS: PAGE 18

Dracut Isn't Buying What Phil Thibault's Selling

EYE ON DRACUT

By Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

When does a perennial candidate become a town laughingstock? In Dracut, you don't have to look any further than Phil Thibault for the answer. All over town, when people hear the eight-time loser is running for office again this year, they laugh and laugh and laugh.

In case you've lost track, this is Phil Thibault's ninth run for office in Dracut. In addition to losing a race for Housing Authority, Phil Thibault has come up short in seven elections for selectman, so far, in 2005, 2007, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2021.

The voters keep sending the same message, but Phil Thibault doesn't want to hear it, apparently. Meanwhile, Phil Thibault continues to align himself with some of the most nasty and negative voices in our town, those who do nothing for Dracut except try to tear it down. As a result, Phil Thibault continues to lose—and not just town elections.

Phil Thibault most recently lost his position as president of the Dracut Access Television (DATV) Board of Directors. "Ousted" is how Selectman Joe DiRocco, who has defeated Phil Thibault in three head-to-head matchups for his seat, described it, when he announced the DATV leadership change at the board's meeting in late February while discussing the contract between the town and DATV.

Due to the fact that Phil Thibault and his friends passed a confidentiality agreement to place a shroud of secrecy over the happenings at DATV, as a member of the Board of Directors, I'm not able to publicly discuss any DATV matters, including my own votes.

Thanks to the First Amendment, however, I'm able to tell you that Phil Thibault is lazy, mean-spirited, vindictive, and self-serving. Those are some of the nicer things I can say about Phil Thibault, based on the way I've seen him conduct himself at DATV.

Here's what the Lowell Sun said when Phil Thibault lost his selectman's race in 2020.

"It just might be that in Thibault's case, familiarity breeds more contempt than content.

Buoyed by the backing of several town influencers – including former selectmen – one would have thought it was his election to lose, which he did.

It could also be payback for the decision by that screening panel he ran not to put interim – now permanent – Town Manager Ann Vandal on the list of finalists for that position."

Later that year, in October of 2020, the Lowell Sun exposed some of Phil Thibault's self-serving behavior at DATV.

"Imagine if Phil Thibault had been elected to the Dracut Board of Selectmen.

Even though the Dracut Access Cable Television board of directors, on which Thibault serves, is technically not a government body, Thibault apparently thought there was nothing improper with landing a $10,000 contract to help design DATV's new studio, as Thibault is an architect."

The paper added: "With all that's going on with DATV… one would think directors would go above and beyond to present a clean image."

Speaking of a clean image, Dracut is in very good shape right now. Thanks to clear direction from selectmen and strong support from the townspeople, the town manager's stellar leadership is something we should celebrate and continue. This is no time to go backwards with the politics and the politicians of the past.

There are more than a few noteworthy accomplishments worth noting.

The town banked more than $10 million in free cash last year. Roads, sidewalks, culverts, and other infrastructure projects are underway and many more will be checked off the to-do list. Veteran housing is being built for the first time in a long time. Open space, preservation and conservation remain high priorities for the town. There's a strong focus on economic development. Morale at town hall is high. People in town are optimistic about our future.

Regardless of reality, Phil Thibault appears more angry and bitter than ever—and he keeps giving Dracut voters good reasons to reject him. Last year, Phil Thibault said our town was starting to rot. This year, he's calling Dracut sleepy. Someone definitely needs a wake-up call, but it's not the voters of Dracut—it's Phil Thibault.

Cue the laugh track.

— Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye on Dracut, a monthly cable news show that airs on DATV Channel 8 and online at dracuttv.org ◊

Lawrence Approves Funding for Construction of Francis M. Leahy School

Lawrence, Massachusetts, February 17, 2022. - On Tuesday, February 15th, the Lawrence City Council voted unanimously in favor of funding the construction of the new Francis M. Leahy School.

On behalf of the city residents and students, Mayor Brian A. DePeña's proposed a plan to city council, which would pay for the new school without creating any local tax increases in funding the construction. Mayor asked the council to approve the plan utilizing the current ARPA funds, as unrestricted funds, to be placed into free cash and then used to pay debt services for a number of years going forward.

The current Leahy school, which is approximately more than one hundred years old has long-standing problems such as: water leaks, leaky roof, storage problems and structural problems.

"As our community continues to grow, our government understands the need for new schools in Lawrence, and I am very proud to deliver on that commitment," stated Lawrence Mayor Brian A. DePeña.

Mayor DePeña also sent his congratulations and thanks to City Council President Marc LaPlante and the council on the unanimous vote by stating that "Education can come in many settings, and the City Council helps facilitate opportunities for lifelong learning. By bringing a new school to this community, they help to create community anchors that serve citizens for generations to come."

City Council President Marc LaPlante said "This was a unique opportunity to fund the Leahy School expansion and renovation. Combined with last year's vote to expand and renovate the Oliver School, the city is dedicating $234 million to upgrade our schools. More work must be done to manage our population growth as well as placing resources to do needed repair and preventative maintenance at all our schools. I'm hopeful we are heading in the right direction."

The city will have until February 24th to formally accept the available designated funds from the state's School Construction Assistance Authority. "The new Leahy will give generations of children the exceptional space they deserve to learn and grow together, and benefit Lawrence families and residents for decades to come," said Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent Cynthia Paris. "I want to thank everyone – especially those in the Leahy School community and Lawrence Teachers Union – who advocated so hard for this desperately needed project, and express my deep gratitude to Mayor DePeña, the City Council, the Lawrence Alliance for Education, and our partners at the MSBA for moving it forward."

The new school, slated to be built on Leahy's current property, will have all new playground, indoor gym, science and technology equipment and labs, art and music spaces, and state of the art sized classroom.

For more information on the construction of the Leahy School contact Lawrence Public Schools Chief Operating Officer Odanis M. Hernández at (978) 869-7170 ◊

FROM PAGE 4: House of Representatives Soldier's Home Reform is Not the Answer

The bill passed by the House grants this authority to a Veterans' Homes Council and does not speak to the authority and accountability of the Governor and the Veterans Secretary. I agree with the IG that one person must be accountable for the superintendent, and that should be the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and that unless the Legislature clarifies, "there will be no direct accountability for the superintendent."

Also in the original bill, the current Secretary of Veterans' Services (who functionally serves as a Commissioner, not a Secretary) was elevated to a Secretary of Veterans Affairs with a seat in the Governor's cabinet, ensuring a direct line of communication to the Governor. The bill passed by the House does not include this critical provision.

Finally, the original bill created a statewide Veterans' Homes Council that required specific expertise and representation from the full Veteran community. In our original bill, we ensured council members would be qualified in the areas of financial management, health care administration, clinical services, labor relations, and more. We further called for participation by a female Veteran, minority Veteran, LGBTQ Veteran, and Veterans that served in various conflicts, ensuring the full Veteran community has a voice. The bill passed by the House creates a statewide council with none of these provisions or qualifications and further gives the majority of seats on the council to the local trustees for each Home, who would essentially hold veto power. This is an ineffective model and does not ensure statewide representation – the Soldiers' Homes are for all Veterans in the Commonwealth, not just Veterans located geographically near to the Homes.

I look forward to working with all as these important discussions continue. We must pass legislation that will create effective governance and oversight of our Soldiers' Homes – this is what our Veterans and their families deserve.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2676. ◊

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LENNY MIRRA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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KANE'S CORNER

M.V. Food Bank Feeding Families since 1991

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT

Merrimack Valley Food Bank is a 501c-3 Regional Food Distribution Center in Lowell, Massachusetts that provides nutritious food and freedom from hunger to the low income, homeless and the hungry. The MVFB distributes food to many of the local food pantrys, senior citizen complexes, shelters, school department, and group homes in the surrounding communities including Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill, Newburyport, and Westford to name a few.

Kane learned through his interview with Assistant Director Deborah Callery that the Merrimack Valley Food Bank typically serves 85,000 individuals or families each month. Wow, this figure blew Kane's mind. Kane thought Deborah, her coworkers, and volunteers must be very proud of themselves for doing such important community work. Kane and his siblings were born into an environment with limited resources before being rescued. His hope is that other beings did not have to worry about hunger. He was sad to learn that many of the people that suffer from food insecurity are seniors, children, and disabled people. Many have limited resources and resources to become financially independent.

Kane was fascinated to learn how the Merrimack Valley Food Bank serves so many families. Kane thought wow Deborah was very patient with him as he listened and asked questions about how this magic happens, but I guess Kane thought there isn't a magic wand, there is networking with community members and agencies, grant management, assessing the needs of the community and hard consistent work. Deborah stated, "everything we do is about building and maintaining relationships. She described her relationship with local grocery stores that regularly donate surplus pallets and relationships with individual truck drivers, who go out of their way to donate surplus goods. I guess Deborah, her staff, and volunteers must be very flexible as their schedules may be forever changing. That sure sounds hard to Kane since he likes to go to bed and eat at the same time every day.

The Merrimack Valley Food Bank also has a mobile unit that provides food directly to individuals and families delivered by volunteers. Through Operation Nourish volunteers deliver meals to identified children with nutritional needs for the day and weekend. Local middle schools in Lowell and students at the Greater Lowell and Lawrence Technical High School are examples of a regular stop. During the summer children have the opportunity to continue to receive food supplements when school is not in session. Kane thought about how awful it would be to be hungry and paused to think how important the MVFB is to the Region.

The mobile unit also makes stops at the homes of elderly and disabled individuals. The Merrimack Valley Food Bank works collaboratively with Elder Services and administrators at the schools to identify specific children and elderly with nutritional needs. During the COVID-19 pandemic the Mobile Pantry has made emergency deliveries to people in quarantine without the resources to purchase food. As part of relationship building, the same volunteer tries to deliver monthly to the same client to build a relationship and level of comfort to the person in need.

Kane asked Deborah where the food and funding came from to fill the Distribution Center. Debra explained that the food is received from the Federal and State Emergency food programs, and donations by local farmers, food retailers, manufacturers, and neighborhood and local food drives. The MVFB distributes these food supplies to over 100 member agencies within 30 communities. The

Merrimack Valley Food Bank was also a winner of funding from the Cummings Property Foundation.

If you would like to support the Merrimack Valley Food Bank please consider donating financially directly on the website, coordinate a food drive, drop off donations during the hours of 8:00 and 3:00 or join the team at the annual fundraiser, "A Big Night Out" on 06/09/2022 at Lenzi's in Dracut.

Tickets are available on the Merrimack Valley Food Bank website. Kane thought for all the pain and suffering in the world, he was happy to learn about people like Deborah Callery and her coworkers at the Merrimack Valley Food Bank who directly provide resources to people for the most fundamental need of food. It was a pleasure to meet you.

Kane Peaslee
Columnist, The Valley Patriot
Woof ◊

Long before I ever ran for office I was a loyal reader of The Valley Patriot. As Lawrence City Council President - and now a State Rep. I find it vital to keeping up with what's going on in my district.

Congratulations on hitting a **GREAT** milestone, your 18th ANNIVERSARY!

Here's hoping for many more!

HAPPY 17th ANNIVERSARY!

FRANK MORAN

STATE REPRESENTATATIVE

Valley Patriot: Thank You for
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I Remember how they *Laughed* ....
18 Years and 221 Editions Ago

I REMEMBER SO WELL ...

I remember when the very first edition of The Valley Patriot was delivered to my office in Lawrence City Hall back in 2004. I had never seen anything like it. It was a breath of fresh air for free speech in the Lawrence area! Tom, you and your team have come a long way since those days, you ought to be proud!

I also remember taking my share of criticism in the pages of this newspaper too, but it was always fair and never personal.

Mostly, I remember when you first unveiled your vision for standards in journalism, how you were laughed at and mocked by the political insiders and the newspaper industry.

CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING THE LAST LAUGH!

Mike Sullivan

(Then) Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan in July of 2005 at the placement of our very first newspaper box on Mt. Vernon St. in Lawrence.

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Sand & Sole Opens in Downtown Amesbury

AMESBURY – Sophorn Phy was a high school student when she got her first job working in a nail salon.

"I was always attracted to the self-care industry," explained Phy. "I was still a teenager but ended up getting my Manicurist license so that I could work in a salon setting."

Phy's interest ran deep, and she would spend the next thirteen years of her life working in salons.

"I spent three years working in Greater Lawrence before taking a position with Interlocks in Newburyport," explained Phy. "I spent the next ten years working with their great team of professionals and clients."

Phy worked at Interlocks, juggling her job there and her own family, while also earning a degree in Business Management.

"My parents are immigrants from Cambodia, and they instilled in me the importance of an education," said Phy.

While she would earn her degree, Phy found nothing replaced the feelings she felt working directly with clients in a salon setting.

"After school, I continued to work at Interlocks," explained Phy. "Then this past year, the owner and I started talking about my own future and interests. I had always wanted my own salon, but it was Ginny Eramo – the owner of Interlocks – who gave me the courage to actually take the plunge."

"Change brought on by the pandemic provided me with an opportunity to help Sophorn follow her dream," said Eramo. "I'm grateful for the 10 years we worked together and am excited for our next chapter as fellow entrepreneurs."

Eramo offered Phy the manicurist equipment from Interlocks. Phy then set out to find the perfect home for her new venture.

"I was looking from Haverhill to Newburyport," said Phy. "And then my brother-in-law and his dog came with me to scout out downtown Amesbury."

Phy was checking out a space on Main Street when another location caught her eye.

"My doggy-nephew pulled us down Mill St.", laughed Phy. "That's when we found the perfect spot."

Phy called the owner of 1 Mill Street, and that week she had a lease signed. Sand + Sole Nail Bar now had a home.

"My daughter and I had been at the beach, and she was talking about how great the sun felt on her skin," said Phy. "And there was something about how she said it that made me want to build my business around that feeling. The feeling of comfort and relaxation that comes with a visit to the beach."

Phy set up her studio to exclusively cater to clients looking for nail care.

"I wanted to provide clients with a relaxing, professional environment for both pedicures and manicures," explained Phy. "I built out my studio to create that environment. But even more important is providing quality care and service."

Phy's Sand + Sole Nail Bar offers clients expert nail care with specialists trained in the latest techniques and trends. They offer quality, sustainable products, with a focus on cleanliness.

"Sophorn's energy is contagious," said Phil DeCologero, Executive Director of the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce. "I love that she picked Amesbury, and that she has such a strong focus on clients makes her an especially good fit for our neighborhood!"

"Clients come first!" said Phy.

To learn more about Sand + Sole Nail Bar, please visit www.sandandsolenailbar.com. While appointments are preferred, walk-ins are welcomed. ◊

Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini presented a citation to PRIDEStar EMS Paramedics Samantha Kuenzler and Bobby Thorne during the Haverhill City Council's meeting on last month. (Photo Courtesy PRIDEStar EMS)

PRIDEStar EMS Paramedics Honored by City of Haverhill for Reviving Resident

LOWELL – PRIDEStar EMS is proud to share that two paramedics from its Trinity EMS Division were honored by the Haverhill City Council on Tuesday night for reviving a Haverhill resident.

The Haverhill City Council and Mayor James J. Fiorentini presented Paramedics Samantha Kuenzler and Bobby Thorne with a certificate recognizing their quick response and lifesaving work.

Paramedics Kuenzler and Thorne performed approximately 18 minutes of CPR and used an automated external defibrillator to revive Steven St. Germaine after he suffered cardiac arrest while outside his home next to PRIDEStar's Haverhill base.

Paramedic Kuenzler had spoken with St. Germaine earlier in the day while he was shoveling snow, and jokingly told him he likely lived in the safest house in Haverhill because he lives next door to PRIDEStar..

After reviving St. Germaine, Paramedics Kuenzler and Thorne transported the patient to Lawrence General Hospital, where he recovered.

St. Germaine and his family attended the City Council meeting on Tuesday night and reunited with Kuenzler and Thorne, sharing hugs and conversation after the council's presentation.

City officials praised Paramedics Kuenzler and Thorne for their actions, and thanked PRIDEStar EMS and Trinity EMS for its high level of care.

"We have some true heroes in our community," Mayor James Fiorentini said. "We are very, very proud of you and your service."

"Too often we don't recognize the people that do the day-to-day work," Councilor Joseph Bevilacqua said. "I want to thank you, and let you know that you are noticed."

"I want to once again thank Samantha and Bobby for their exceptional work. They set an example that makes all of us at Trinity and PRIDEStar proud," said PRIDEStar CEO and Founder Dave Daly. "I would also like to thank the Haverhill City Council and Mayor Fiorentini for their recognition and continued partnership. It was truly a joy to see Mr. St. Germaine smiling along with his family." ◊

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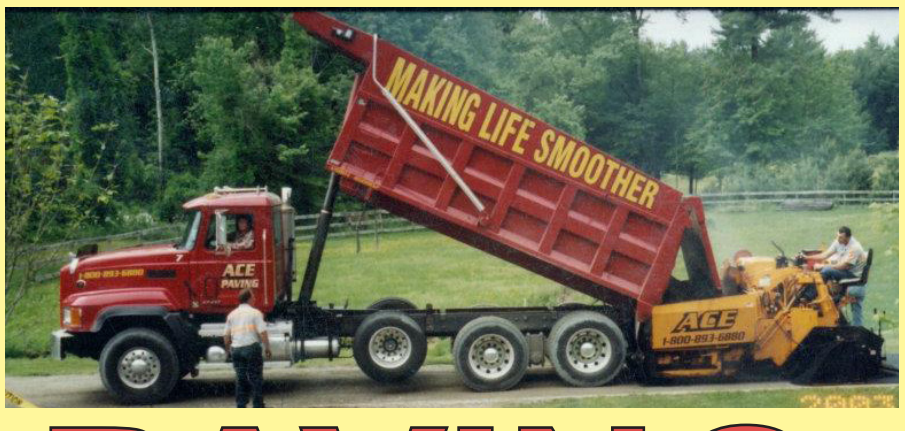

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18 Years and 221 Editions Ago

I REMEMBER SO WELL ...

I remember when the very first edition of The Valley Patriot was delivered to my office in Lawrence City Hall back in 2004. I had never seen anything like it. It was a breath of fresh air for free speech in the Lawrence area! Tom, you and your team have come a long way since those days, you ought to be proud!

I also remember taking my share of criticism in the pages of this newspaper too, but it was always fair and never personal.

Mostly, I remember when you first unveiled your vision for standards in journalism, how you were laughed at and mocked by the political insiders and the newspaper industry.

CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING THE LAST LAUGH!

Mike Sullivan

(Then) Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan in July of 2005 at the placement of our very first newspaper box on Mt. Vernon St. in Lawrence.

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

Harry arrived, and a business partner of Micky Ward presented an unsigned glove, priceless, seeing the disappointment on the Master Chief's face, they then brought in Mickey Ward to sign the glove.

Hidden Battles offers a myriad of activities for veterans and first responders. In a partnership with the YMCA, Hidden Battles provides weekly yoga classes for first responders and their spouses. The classes are offered to corrections officers, police, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, nurses, veterans and military personnel.

Visiting the Hidden Battles website, one finds many photos of cornhole tournaments, concerts, formal dinners, cookouts, and many other community events. These events serve two purposes, raising money to help veterans and first responders, and getting these American heroes, out of the house, outside, and together for a few hours of very therapeutic camaraderie.

Scott Hyder says "We are expanding our programs to include Equine Therapy with three local organizations: Strong Water, Iron Stone, and Equine Immersion Project. Hidden Battles is also providing art therapy with the Currier Museum in New Hampshire, included are an archery program with Greater Lowell YMCA, and hero themed family events with the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. Rounding out the offerings are fly fishing classes and more couples themed events. Hidden Battles is also having staff members trained in life saving courses for people in crisis.

Scott wrote for the Valley Patriot on the relationship that is growing between Hidden Battles and the Greater Lowell YMCA, "We have built a great partnership to benefit our veterans, first responders and nurses. By working together on rebuilding the Camp Massapoag nurses' station, we accomplished a mission of helping the Hidden Battles Community and in return directly impacted the community that the Greater Lowell YMCA serves. Our partnership grows daily, whether it's the yoga program we attend or the archery program we will be partnering up with in the spring, we seem to have formed a very strong and resourceful bond between the two organizations."

Scott is a ten-year military Veteran, serving our Nation, with the US Army as a Staff Sargent. His Military Occupational Specialty was 51 Hotel, a Construction Engineer, he served with the 368th Combat Engineers. In 2004, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant. During his military career, he was deployed to Kosovo during the Balkans conflict, as well as Kenya and Panama for peace keeping missions.

For his work with Hidden Battles, Scott was awarded the Distinguished Veteran Award from the American Society for Public Administration in May of 2018. The Hidden Battles Foundation is a component fund of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation. Scott attended Middlesex Community studying Criminal Justice. Scott is married, with a six-year-old son and an eighteen-year-old daughter in college.

US Army Veteran, former Police Officer, Husband, Father, Community Leader, Scott Hyder is truly a "Hero in our Midst".

Future Hidden Battles Events

Monthly Couples Cooking Class @ Roudenbush Center in Westford, MA

April Sunday morning Hiking locations to be TBA

March 12th Couples Cooking Class Roudenbush Center Westford, MA

March 19th Family Movie Night Chunky's Cinema Nashua, NH

April 28th Hidden Battles Hero Night Baseball Fisher Cats NE. Delta Dental Stadium Manchester, NH

May 14th Family Movie Night Chunky's Cinema Nashua, NH

May 21st "22 For the 22" 22k Ruck/ Walk @ Newfound Lake, NH

July 9th Kayak Adventure in support of Swim with a Mission @ Newfound Lake, NH

July 28th Family Outing Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH

Sept 24th Cornhole Event and Family Day at Cricket and Bunting Club Lowell, MA

Oct 7th Annual Golf Tournament Trull Brook CC. Tewksbury, MA

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, working with Congress, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War, Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◊

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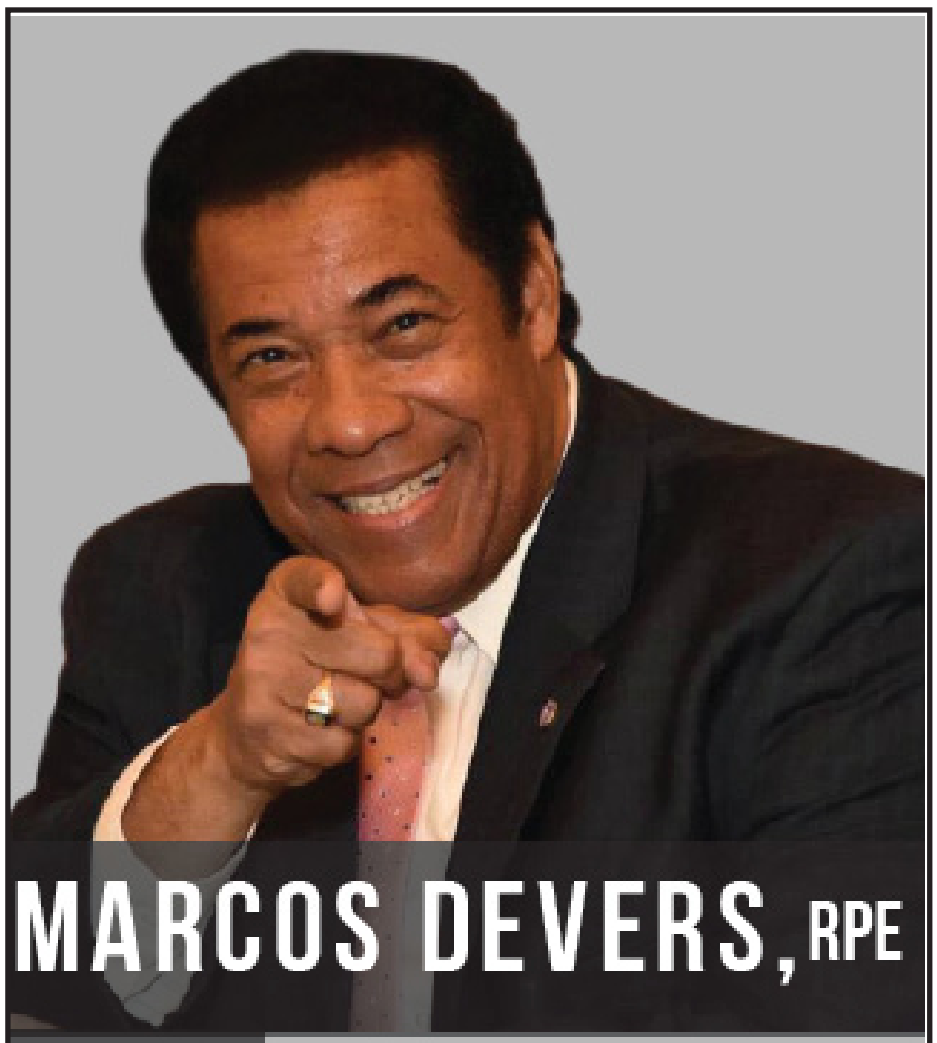
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Remembering Carmen Dimarca

By: Mary DiZazzo-Trumbull

Once upon a time there walked a gentle man on this earth and spread his rock music across the world.

Carmen was my good friend for almost 50 years. I followed his music in my young days. Then we became Facebook Friends when he was in Sicily. He was born in Sicily and came to America as a baby with his family. They settled in Lawrence in homes until his last address was a tenement where his recording studio was on the first floor, his Mom lived on the second floor and he lived on the third floor. As you all know nothing like the closeness and kindness of an Italian Mom. Many wonderful songs were written and sung by Carmen and his band mates there.

After a scrape with the law Carmen's world as he knew it would end. Bad company made for poor life choices! After losing everything, he spent six years in jail and since he never became a US citizen was deported back to Sicily! Leaving everything behind without a goodbye to family and friends. Pulling his bootstraps up after getting dropped off by the officials in Rome, Carmen made it to Sicily. A place he had just visited two times in his youth. It was a new land with a new full-time language.

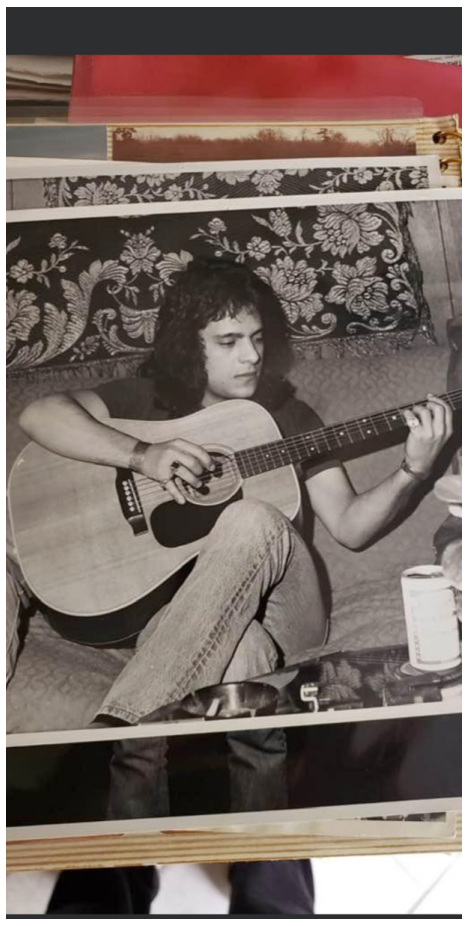
Family and friends there welcomed him; however, he was starting all over with very little lira in his pocket. A few friends from the old Lawrence neighborhood would visit and support what he needed from time to time.

As time passed Carmen met other musicians in Sicily that he came to consider as brothers. The band they formed was called "One Life." They just put out an awesome first CD that was such an accomplishment. Carmen and his new band mates learned from each other, and sparks and musical notes flew.

Never a celebrity nor anyone in power, however, his funeral was packed with mourners. Not a dry eye in the crowd. His coffin was carried by his band mates to the entrance way of the small but beautiful Church of Saint Lucia in Catania just hundreds of feet from where Carmen lived. "One Life" sang one of Carmen's songs "Guiding Angel" that was written for his Mother whose funeral in Lawrence he could not attend because of his exile to Sicily. Absolutely memorable and breathtaking!

The man who led the band "One Life" lived two lives, one in Massachusetts and one in Sicily.

In his short time on this earth Carmen captured the hearts of many people. He was loved by many. His music will live on in our souls. May he fly high with the angels until we meet again. ◊



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Congratulations to

The Valley Patriot!

It's hard to believe that it was 18 years ago when The Valley Patriot first hit the streets. Looking back at all the corruption you have exposed, and the way you have educated the public about our government, I know the Merrimack Valley is better off for your efforts!

Congratulations to Tom Duggan and everyone at The Valley Patriot for not only exercising, but fighting for the 1st Amendment to the United States Constitution!

~Mike Gagliardi~

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-Mike Gagliardi,
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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

‘Reacher’

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Jack Reacher has been around since author Lee Child introduced the character in 1997. Since then, Child has released one book every year without fail, with number 27 due for release this October. So it was only a matter of time before Hollywood came calling.

It was Tom Cruise who convinced Oscar-winning screenwriter Christopher McQuarrie to adapt ‘One Shot,’ the ninth novel in the series. It was eventually renamed Jack Reacher and arrived on the big screen in 2012 and another Cruise film in 2016. Despite the films being quite successful, avid readers of the novels were not thrilled with Cruise as Reacher. The character of Reacher is a very large man. Cruise is not.

Now, along comes ‘Reacher’ from Amazon Prime Video. This time Alan Ritchson, much more appropriate for the character’s physical appearance at 6’2” 200 lbs., plays the title character.

Jack Reacher is a war hero and ex-military policeman who now spends his life off the grid, traveling the country with no luggage, using fake names, and paying for everything in cash. The story begins with Reacher strolling into a diner in the fictional town of Margrave, Georgia. He’s in town because his brother Joe has told him about the area’s connection to a famous blues musician, and he has come to the diner because he wants to try a piece of what he has heard is the best peach pie you’ll find anywhere. Before he can do that, he is unexpectedly arrested for a murder he didn’t commit. Reacher, being Reacher, keeps his cool and soon finds out there is a secret to this town that he has unwittingly stumbled into.

Now he must stay in Margrave and prove he didn’t do it. And, when he finds out who has been killed, the matter becomes personal. The first season of Reacher follows the plot of the first Jack Reacher book, Killing Floor. In Child’s 1997 debut novel, Reacher eventually partners up with Finlay (Malcolm Goodwin), sheriff’s deputy Roscoe Conklin (Willa Fitzgerald) and a medical examiner (Harvey Guillén) to solve the murder.

Reacher has the deductive mind of Sherlock Holmes, but you count on at least one scene per episode where he beats the crap out of five guys attacking him at once. I won’t spoil the plot too much but expect to see plenty of fist fights, gunplay galore, corruption at all levels of law enforcement, and an overly complex money laundering plot. The show is cleverly plotted, and perfectly paced.

Series creator Nick Santora’s eight-episode series gives every indication of understanding the things that make Jack Reacher distinctive and entertaining as a character. Santora and his writing team have captured many of Reacher’s eccentricities, from his no-frills approach to packing — a passport, small wad of cash and travel toothbrush — to his obsessive accumulation of roadside trivia.

‘Reacher’ is a lot of fun, one of those series you look forward to and could happily binge-watch. It has already been renewed for a second season.

‘Reacher’ is available to stream on Amazon Prime Video.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◊

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

WHAT IS A BOMB CYCLONE?

Welcome to March and the month that will mark the official beginning of the spring season. Then Vernal Equinox will begin the spring season.

This year it occurs on March 20th. The sun angle will continue to get higher during March. This will result in warmer temperatures. With a higher sun angle this will cause the snow to melt faster.

On March 13th daylight savings time returns. At this time, we will turn the clocks one hour ahead (spring forward). We will lose an hour’s sleep, however, on the flip side we will have longer daylight. The sunsets will become later. March is the transition month between winter and spring.

During March we can still get snowstorms and cold air. The snow that occurs in March will be heavier, pastier, containing more water. A March snowstorm where heavy wet snow occurs can cause power outages due to the weight of the snow on trees and power lines. During March we can see sharp temperature extremes. After a snowstorm warm weather can occur with temperatures in the 60s and even 70s.

Recapping February we had some active weather with some big snowstorms. During February we had some large extremes in the weather. We had days with cold arctic air from Canada. We also saw some warm days unlike January. High temperatures got into the 50s and there were even some days in the 60s. One warm day which produced new record high temperatures occurred on Wednesday February 23rd. Boston reached 69 degrees on this day; the old record was 68 degrees set back in 2017. Worcester, Providence, and Hartford also had new record high temperatures on February 23rd. Norwood reached 71 degrees.

The warm temperatures on this day caused many people to wear shorts. Yes, shorts with it still being winter in February quite unusual!! This warm weather did not last long as reality returned the end of the week with winter temperatures.

It was back to typical February weather. In addition to the winter cold, a snowstorm occurred on Friday February 25th. It was hard to imagine that two days before we had record warmth. Snow began in the pre-dawn hours of February 25th.

Once the snow began, it became heavy and started to quickly accumulate. It was back to not only feeling like February but very much looking like February. The low-pressure system which gave us the snowstorm on February 25th had a lot of moisture associated with it.

However, it was not the bomb cyclone that occurred on January 29th. The February 25thstorm had much less wind and coastal impacts compared to the bomb cyclone. Snowfall amounts from the February 25th storm ranged up to 10 inches plus in some areas. Closer to Boston and the coast the snow was heavier, pastier, containing more water.

As you went farther north and west from Boston up into southern New Hampshire the air was a lot colder. As a result, the snow was drier and fluffier in these areas. After this snowstorm, the air stayed relatively cold.

On Monday February 28th, the last day of the month, we had lots of sunshine, however, high temperatures remained in the 20s. February finished with a sunny day with a mid-winter feel to the air. February had its cold days with some snowstorms, however, despite this, Boston averaged a little over a degree above normal. Like December, February averaged

warmer than normal with the below normal month January sandwiched in between. A couple of reminders for March. First, if more snow and ice occur make sure you remove all the snow & ice from your car even the roof!!! Leaving any snow or ice on the roof of your car can make it dangerous for motorists behind you.

There were times in February when ice came off the roof of a car and struck the car behind breaking the windshield. This can be avoided by clearing the roof of your car. Also, if you lose power during March make sure if you have a portable generator that you run it well away from the house including the garage. March can feature some big storms and cold weather.

Will this March feature any big storms and cold weather? How about record warm temperatures?

Stay tuned to next month’s article for the answers. In the meantime, those of you who like winter, enjoy what’s left, and everyone be safe!!! ◊

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Where are You Getting Your Intel?

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

With all that's going on in the world today have you ever asked yourself, where am I getting my intel from? Have you ever watched an action-packed war movie or a movie full of espionage and suspense? Well, if you have then you have certainly heard the term, Intel! The term is used to define intelligence and used in the context I mentioned earlier, it would be referring to military intelligence. I found an interesting synopsis that goes like this, "This aim is achieved by providing assessment of data from a range of sources to come to a conclusion of how to attack a situation that poses a potential problem."

So, this brings us to another question, where are you getting your data from? During COVID we got it from the CDC which changed daily because they didn't know really how to attack this massive problem. We were in a flux of instability in what to believe and from whom? We were left to what was being told to us by the daily news. What were their sources? Where did they get their data and intel from? This strategy resulted in trial and error unfolding right before our eyes and this made most of us very uncomfortable.

This brings me to ask what are you using to get your intel to collect data to make strategies for your life, emotionally and spiritually? May I give you an option that some have chosen, I know that I have? In the Bible there is a verse found in Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." NKJV. [The Greek renders the word God as Christos, meaning Christ].

The Holy Spirit is very specific here by saying Faith comes by hearing, hearing the word of Christ! Words that specifically pertain to Christ! You will not find a more credible source than the one who spoke the world into being, and saved mankind by dying on the cross for their sins. Especially now as we enter into the Easter Season where we as Christians celebrate the truth that He was raised from the dead and is NOW seated at the right hand of the Father.

So, what is your source of reference? The Apostle Paul by way of the Holy Spirit wrote these words which we read in the message translation: 1 Corinthians 2:6-9 "We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you once you get your feet on firm spiritual ground, but it's not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes.

You don't find it lying around on the surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene.

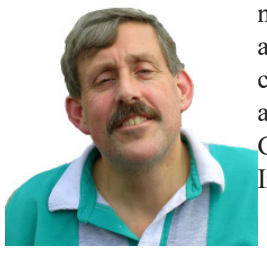
The experts of our day haven't a clue about what this eternal plan is. If they had, they wouldn't have killed the Master of the God-designed life on a cross. That's why we have this Scripture text: No one's ever seen or heard anything like this, never so much as imagined anything quite like it—What God has arranged for those who love him. But you've seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you."

In Proverbs 2:6 from the Young's translation: "For Jehovah giveth wisdom, from his mouth knowledge and understanding." May I propose a source of reference that maybe you haven't considered before to be good intel because it was deemed "religion" and not pertinent to this day and time? This may shock you, but I agree with you about religion not providing good intel.

God has never and will never have anything to do with religion. Religion is man's way of trying to communicate with an angry God.

In Hebrews 13:7-10, we read, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them." NIV. Notice the Holy Spirit says to imitate the faith of our Christian leaders, not their behavior or way of life! That's religion!!!

As I bring this column to its conclusion, I humbly suggest the Bible as The Great Source of reference to give you some peace of mind and heart in these turbulent times. This is what the Bible says about the Word of God in Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." NKJV. God's Word is the discerner, [the critic] of man and not the other way around. It hasn't changed and will always be The Great Source of Intelligence!



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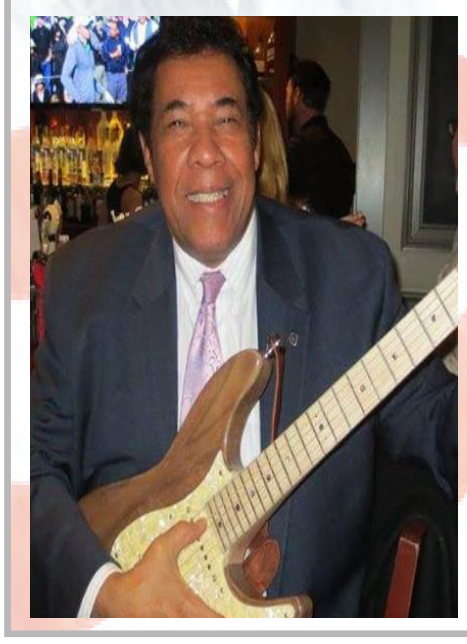
LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT 18 YEARS!



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Clean-Up on Aisle Brandon

Ken Willette, Jr.
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

President Biden has created a quagmire of such nightmarish proportions that as a dedicated and educated student of history and politics for decades, I personally don't know the ultimate outcome of his unprecedented weakness on the world stage. But anyone who witnessed the follies of Brandon over his 50 years of public service should have known what they were buying into. Brandon, to put it straightforward, is a liar, a cheat, and a plagiarist— which are character flaws that are very damning to a politician sworn to protect the Constitution and operate impartially in good faith on behalf of the American people.

Let us first observe his inaugural address. He literally committed his soul to promote national unity, which evaporated his first week in office. On climate change, the other side was destroying the planet. On voting rights, the other side was denying minorities the right to vote. On political extremism, every day was a repeat of January 6th. Anyone who questioned Fauci was practicing science from the Middle Ages. The level of disdain, scorn and hatred scared many Americans. The noble concepts of unity and bipartisanship were trampled.

But when you have built a sandcastle constructed on lies and propaganda, it is only a matter of time before you need the help of others to stop the inevitable collapse. Brandon recently pleaded with Republicans and Independents to see his point of view. But Leftists stated that if you don't fully support Brandon's approach to Russia, you are nothing but a puppet of Putin. Really? Let's examine that accusation.

Invasion of Ukraine first occurred under Obama, when the Crimea was targeted; and the current mass incursion followed under Biden's watch. Both Presidents repeatedly stated that they knew how to control Putin. Both Presidents were historically wrong that they believed a KGB agent could be an honest political actor.

On the other hand, Trump put sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, motivated NATO members to increase their military budgets by billions of dollars and sold Patriot missiles to Poland. Yet Leftists accused Trump of being the puppet. Such delusional thinking!

The President of Ukraine begged for sanctions and military aid long before the first hours of Russian aggression. Nothing was done. Biden had lifted the sanctions on Nord Stream 2 (Pro-Russian jobs) and shut down the Keystone Pipeline (Anti-American loss of 11,000 jobs).

While Trump's policies restored America's status as a net exporter of oil, Brandon destroyed all that energy independence in one year. As of the date of this column, America is still buying Russian oil and supplying blood money to Putin's immoral war.

Brandon is still sucking up to Putin's energy industry, which has remained unharmed by any sanctions at all. Both Obama and Biden objected to providing Javelins weapons to Ukraine. Trump was working to ensure that the new Ukraine President was dedicated to tackling corruption in the courts and he ended up being impeached.

Brandon is ill-equipped to tackle hyperinflation, confront tyrants, and compromise with opposition leaders he loves to demonize. For a man who does not operate in good faith, why should we trust him now. God help America, Europe, and Ukraine as a result of Brandon's spineless political soul. ◊

THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Weak Bones, Weak Joints Weak Body

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Our bones, our skeleton, support our structure and strong bones are very important for health.

The subconscious brain reads the body and may lead us to depression if it sees physical weakness. It is our muscles that feed our bones, otherwise the bones degenerate.

As you know, doctors prescribe medications for osteoporosis. These medications have side effects, causing muscle pains, inflammation of the stomach and can weaken some of the bones and paradoxically predispose to fracture. Therefore, we should not only depend on these medications. Of note here is that vitamin D and Calcium pills have not shown help, which is strange when so many people rely on them. This is so counterintuitive that even doctors continue prescribing them. For some reason that I still do not know, eating more vegetables strengthen the bones more than taking Calcium.

Thus, we come back full circle to the plant based diet, getting some sun and exercise, which protect against dementia, diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, arthritis and osteoporosis.

Add to this that isolation and loneliness increase the risk of many diseases. In the town of Roseto in Pennsylvania and some towns in Greek islands, despite many people smoking and having high cholesterols, they live long healthy lives. In these small towns, people know each other and no one is lonely. Could a fun life and therefore wanting to live, be more important in general than the doctor's medications!?

P. Ghassibi, MD
ghassibi@hotmail.com ◊

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DEPENA: FROM 6

at roughly the same time and depart at roughly the same time.

The bus circulation in the Buckley Transportation Center flows very efficiently. The arrivals and departures are a very well-choreographed event. However, egress from the terminal is challenged by traffic queues on Amesbury Street southbound at Common Street.

Vehicular access to the garage is provided at two access and egress points. One access point is on Amesbury Street and one access point is on Common Street. Each access point has substandard access and egress conditions. The report details what changes will take place at both entrances and exits to facilitate automobiles in and out and bus traffic as well as vehicles traveling on Common St. and Amesbury St.

Bicycle parking is inadequate in the garage. There is bicycle parking within the bus terminal area of the garage on the westerly end. However, there is no bicycle parking at the easterly end of the garage. This prevents efficient loading of bicycles for those boarding busses on the east end of the terminal.

Mayor De Peña points to the stairs as the most immediate replacement to be done given their dilapidated state. Overall, these are easy fixes that will not cost lots of money in repairs and prevent major expenditures in the future.

The garage opened in 1993 and was named for former Mayor John Buckley, who was elected in 1951 and served for 22 years, making him Lawrence's longest-serving mayor. The Buckley Garage has not had any major repairs since its opening. The upcoming repairs are part of an ongoing city's capital improvement of the City of Lawrence's infrastructure. ◊

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Diana DiZoglio
State Auditor

And Join her in wishing The Valley Patriot a Happy 18th Anniversary!

We are looking forward to the Charity BASH on April 8th at the Firefighter's Relief In!!

-Mike Gagliardi,
Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

Property Sales, Foreclosures for JANUARY, 2022 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

James Burns Tr & Gretchen Burns Tr & Burns Family Realty Tr, Bansi Patel & Avish Bhalani, 1,350,000, 4 Mcdonald Cir

Oleary Family Realty Tr & Toby Oleary Tr, Adam & Kelly Stojanowski, 980,000, 7 Stevens Cir

Mikhael & Shruti Ravula, David & Jennifer Farino, 830,000, 45 Farrwood Dr

Jieh & Connie Shyu, Michael Shyu & Jie Zhu, 779,900, 6 Starr Ave East

Taylor Cove Development LLC, Robert Cohen, 755,880, 29 Taylor Cove Dr Unit 23

Hannigen Realty Trust & Thomas Hannigen Tr & Susan Butler Tr, David & Lorraine Mcbride, 690,000, 93 Summer St

Michael & Annemieke Tapp & Annemieke Stonerock, Toby Oleary, 660,000, 2 Washington Ave

Debra Morrissey , Yunya Zhang & Jing Liu, 554,000, 54 Lowell St

Edward Burke, Sandya Arias, 480,000, 31 Topping Rd

Jing-Wei Xiong, Jing Xue, 436,000, 197 High St

Angelo Athanasopoulos & Jennifer Barresi, David Siebeking, 425,000, 250 North Main St Unit 8

Zhao Yang & Danyang Zhao, Adam Buccieri, 400,000, 3 Willoughby Ln

Chee Choong & Baiyu Zhang, Cathy Wang, 330,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 103

Ioannis & Irma Valsamakis, Stephen & Susan Lanich, 315,000, 247 North Main St Unit 12

Meredith Waldron, Melissa Hunt, 225,000, 4 Colonial Dr Unit B4-2

Andover Community Tr Inc & Essex County Habitat For Humanity, Amarilys Mesa, 181,600, 8 Lupine Rd Unit 1

Andover Community Tr Inc & Essex County Habitat For Humanity, Michel Tejada, 177,000, 8 Lupine Rd Unit 2

Usman Fazli & Sara Dar, Sapna Thakuri & Rekhu Chhetri, 550,000, 18 Dale St Unit 3C

LAWRENCE

Kellscraft LLC, SRS Realty LLC, 1,210,000, 159-167 South Union St

Santina & Gina Giuffrida & Santina Primavera, Pimar Properties III LLC, 800,000, 61-63 So Union St

Carlos Mejia, Santiago Fuentes , 740,000, 28-30 Hawley St

Mohua Sultana Tr & Fakhr Uddin Tr & 415-417 Andover Street Realty Tr, Dony & Willy Del Orbe, 730,000, 415-417 Andover St

Daniel Ortega, Enercida Frias & Yanna Salcedo, 696,000, 264 Ames St

Ruben Lopez & Fior Perez, Danny Rodriguez, 678,500, 7-9 Lowell Ter

Empire Investments LLC, Robinson Aragones & Jeremy Paredes, 660,000, 27-29 Kenneth St

Manolo Soler & Jessica Bernabel, Francisco Mota, 658,000, 142-144 Chester St

Juan Padilla Tr & JMP Realty Tr, Nelly Sosa, 649,000, 377-379A Hampshire St

Ofelia Munoz, Johnny Rivas, 600,000, 9 Elm St

LLB Construction Inc, Randazzo Family Tr & Donna & Robert Randazzo, 600,000, 2 South Boylston St

Javier & Atenaida Mendez, Delkis Del Rosario, 600,000, 65 Fern St

Kenneth Bergeron, Gregorio Hernandez & Milagros Aracena, 550,000, 18-20 Washington St

Craig & Amanda McDormand, Maria Anziani, 550,000, 13 Floral St

Hide Salcedo, Rahilly Vasquez, 530,000, 77 Kingston St

Aracelis DeJesus-Cruz, Daihanny & Dario & Adrian Suarez, 505,000, 137 West St

Paula Conners Est & James Conners, Jefri Liriano, 500,000, 18-20 Conduit St

Emmanuel Montealegre & Laura Galicia, Maria Terrero & Aleice Feliz, 480,000, 473 High St

Enriqueta Rivas, Jacqueline Robles, 474,000, 139 E Haverhill St

Maria Nestico, Joselo Del Rosario & Daniel Martinez, 447,000, 26 East St

Vilma Ajanel, Karisa Ajanel, 430,000, 14 Louisburg St

Pemway Realty Tr & Linda Dargits Tr & Linda Purpura Tr, Castillo Investments I LLC, 415,000, 30 South Broadway

Wayne Taylor & Pamela Silveira & Lynne Bernard, Cristian Bueno, 400,000, 10 Holly St

Elizabeth Campbell, Angel Guananga, 400,000, 84-86 Coolidge St

Maria Roque & Marciano Meivier Est, Enrique & Yarilyn Metivier, 400,000, 120 Butler St

Vilix Castillo, Irma Roque, 400,000, 140-142 Sanborn St

Benito & Sandra Gonzalez , Diego Rarmirez, 387,000, 33 Exeter St

Jose & Sandra Delcid, Olga Delorenzo & Kelvin Aragon, 384,000, 44 Durham St

Richard Irizarry , Maryorie Ovalles & Juan Agrinsoni, 376,000, 62 Amherst St

Iacovella Irrevocable Family Tr & Gino Iacovella Tr, Nunez LLC, 375,000, 79 Common St

Esmirna Encarnacion, Brenda Nunez, 350,000, 100 Hancock St

JJM Trust LLC, Rosa Acevedo, 347,000, 91 Bunkerhill St

Leonard Blum, Rosa Salazar & Gabriel Gonzalez, 340,000, 12 Kendall St

Lidia Hernandez, Milagros Andujar, 325,000, 111 Cambridge St Unit C

Michael Bartlett & Michael Bartlett, MMS LLC, 295,000, 149 Ferry St

Roberto Tavares, Joseph Hard Jr, 277,200, 34 Portland St

Robert Murphy Est & Sheila Roberts, Tony Pham & Mai Le, 275,000, 52 Wedgewood Rd Unit 52

Gabriel Lopez, Juan Valerio, 195,000, 334 Howard St Unit 3

Ram Gupta, Rafinel Castillo, 170,000, 260 E Haverhill St Unit 21

Maria Pereira, Castonguay Ventures LLC, 105,000, 14 Saratoga St

METHUEN

Toll Ma Land III LP, Ann & John Sullivan Jr, 829,371, 97 Phoebe St Unit 52

Andrew & Jennifer Black, Matthew & Sheri Birmingham, 824,000, 4 Lindsay Ln

Toll Ma Land III LP, Patuto Realty Tr & Patrick & Sharyn Patuto Tr, 793,236, 11 Hummingbird Way Unit 148

Hoai Tran, Julien Amar & Ana Valdez, 731,000, 784 Lowell St

Anavel & Miguel Cuevas, Erick Lora-Lopez & Alexandria Reyes, 680,000, 2 Ashton Pl

Petro Realty Corp, Methuen SPI LLC, 650,000, 460 Lowell St

Franbooth LLC, Phong Nguyen, 640,000, 3 Booth Rd

Toll Ma Land III LP, Mary Cockroft, 608,924, 95 Phoebe St Unit 51

Wilbur & Wendy Liu, Chloe Nichols & Matthew Bennett, 591,000, 52 Hidden Rd

Virgilio & Evelin Velez, Teosvaldo Pepin, 582,000, 6 Anderson Dr

Susan Browne Tr & New 59 Lawrence St Realty Tr, Kwon Property I LLC, 580,000, 59,63 Lawrence St

Duggan 2015 Tr & Steven Sordillo Tr, Maria Bevens & Marc Lyonnais, 580,000, 4 Village Ln Unit 52

Dennis Perry & Judith Levesque, Juan Leiniz-Gomez & Yokasta Leiniz, 565,000, 207 Pleasant Valley St

Freckle International LLC, Jose & Yris Montas, 560,000, 14 Frye Rd

Rafic & Aniece Saadi, William & Jo-Ann Greeley, 525,000, 74 Davis Rd

David Frasier & Lynne Cann, Frank Cann, 520,000, 11-13 Carleton St

Francis Chenard Est & June Chenard Est & Doreen Gilbert, Two Zero Seven & Nine Wheeler LLC, 500,000, 207-209 Wheeler

Ranger Blue Realty Tr & David Dinatale Tr, Maria Chavez, 500,000, 25 Bridge St

Elaine & Lane Boucher, Evelin Velez, 500,000, 89 Clayton Ave

Thai Nguyen & Anh Dang, Pedro Trinidad & Daphne Robles, 493,000, 83 Comet Rd

Amanda Espinal & Ruddy Torres, Hallam Massiah, 475,000, 73 Comet Rd

Daniel & Erik Rettman, Ingrid Dicavalcanti & Cledson Pereira, 472,000, 8 West St

Federal National Mortgage Association & Fannie Mae, Jamal Hamid, 450,000, 28 Buco Ave

Timothy Sullivan , Matthew & Kimberly Rykaczewski, 415,000, 58 1/2 Union St

David Randolph & Laura Murphy, Adam Randolph, 400,000, 18 Sugar Pine Ln

Cindy Ste Marie, Carlos & Fladia Paulino, 380,000, 14 Pelham Ave

Ortins Capital Partners Group LLC, Q&G Development LLC, 335,000, 10 Brookdale Ave

Emily Manzik & Emily & Steven Curry, Ayushka Shrestha, 335,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 1-205

Anne Costello, Rafael Deleon & Miguelina Abreu, 330,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 7-204

Manuel Joaquin, Eliezer Silfa, 325,000, 60 Pine St Unit E

Gary M Comins Tr 2021 & Claudia Comins Tr, Daphne Robles & Pedro Trinidad, 325,000, 58 Christopher Dr Unit 81

Melissa Morkeski & Nancy Mclean Est, Annie Lopez, 290,000, 3 Arthur St

Nara Alicea, Jonathan Henriquez, 255,000, 95 Pelham St Unit 3

Barbara Denunzzio & Linda Campus, Jesse & Stephanie Calnan, 250,000, 45 Washington St Unit 94

Linda & Pauul Sickorez, Bruce Grunwald & Rebecca Pontius, 789,000, 20 Sequoia Dr Unit 48

Toll Ma Land III LP, Dennis & Cheryl Johnson, 773,452, 93 Phoebe St Unit 50

Jr Builders Inc, Brian & Jenna Cartier, 771,500, 12 Cooper Ln

John & Judelyn Arsenault, Elvis Taveras & Yuliana De Taveras, 511,000, 49 Lippold St

Elssie Hadley & Jesse Pazmino, Natalie Del Rosario & Luis Fernandez & Hector Aquino, 445,000, 26 Meriline Ave

Fnu Bemmo, Candy Delacruz & Fredesvinda Diodati, 390,000, 889 Riverside Dr

Joan Normand, Caroline Mungai, 275,000, 54 Adelaide Ave Unit 1

Jeanine Ward, Joseph Boulal & Meriem Naittourirt, 215,000, 52 High St Unit 2

NORTH ANDOVER

RDM 734 Boxford St LLC, Mark & Vivian Doherty, 1,375,000, 116 Ogunquit Rd

David Siebeking & Marco Souza, Ryan & Jessica Arns, 1,265,000, 337 Summer St

Nicholas & Pepron DiNatale, Nicole & James Brooks, 1,110,000, 45 Sugarcane Ln

PSJ Realty LLC, Matthew Kicinski & Marc Tetreault, 1,100,000, 32-34 Elm St

Chad & Maggie Paquin , Daniel & Amy Shafrir, 975,000, 67 Tucker Farm Rd

Janice Morrissey Tr & Janice Morrissey Tr, Geoffrey Cooper & Samantha Sorrin, 907,000, 160 Kara Dr

Lyndon & Tesha Myers, Bradley & Samantha Surette, 835,000, 37 Scott Cir

Susan Scandore, Christopher & Katherine Carey, 780,000, 437 Summer St

Pavan Panchapakeshan & Deepti Sridhar, Bhakti Patel, 601,000, 44 Compass Point Rd Unit J1

Sachin Garg & Swati Gupta, Krutika Invally & Vaibhav Baliga, 580,000, 34 Compass Point Unit K3

Jayesh & Damini Patel, Turnpike Prop LLC, 563,000, 2170 Turnpike St

Maria Maffei Tr & Jack Maffei Revocable Tr & Constance Marie Maffei Revocable Tr, Charles Parsons & Marissa Keweley, 559,000, 30 Wentworth

Ruth Aliferis & Jeffrey Lander, Barakat Botros, 401,000, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 312

Ronald Cuscia, Caitlin Collins, 400,000, 1401 Great Pond Rd Unit 8

Christina Kelly & Christina & Leonard Giambrone, Jade Unitt & JPIGC Tr, 375,000, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 201

Gerard Mcinerney & Karen Eldredge, IMA Renovations LLC, 357,000, 140-142 Water St

Thomas Mahoney Jr Ind Tr & Mary Morkeski Ind Tr & Teresea E Mahoney Living Tr & Teresa E Mahoney Family Tr & Michael Morkeski, Joseph Lubinger, 320,000, 200 Chickering Rd Unit 206B

William Oconnor, Mark Atwater, 310,000, 6 Bixby Ave Unit 6

Alexander Duff, Joseph Gaeta, 300,000, 47 Edgelawn Ave Unit 12

Juan Cid & Jessie Cashins, Carlotta Woods, 300,000, 1-14 Walker Rd Unit 11-8

Corrine Button & Gary Button Est, Denise & Danielle Conceison, 300,000, 2 Walker Rd Unit 2-11

Lucille Conation Irrevocable Tr & John Conation Tr & Marie Baribeault Tr & Kathleen Laroche Tr, Louis Difiore Jr., 284,000, 148 Main St. Unit C-440

Barabara R Raynes Revocable Trust of August 12 2020 & Louis Ouellette Tr, Paul Sangree & Irene Bagdoian, 270,000, 173 Main St Unit 3

Carol Buscanera , Leonard Harris, 243,700, 38 Ciderpress Way Unit TH8-3

Marilyn Luther, Pasquerella Family Living Tr & Julie Gregory Tr & Marcie Stone Tr, 242,000, 4 Stacy Dr

Alan Awerman Tr & Ara Family Tr, Sarah Meier, 240,000, 39 Farrwood Ave Unit 6

Dante Cornelio & Nicholas Forgione Tr & Lawrence J Ardito Ind Tr & Rino Gnesi Est, Marie Licciardi, 185,000, 14 Edgelawn Ave Unit 16

Alfred Morrison Est & Althea Morrison, Middleton Farms LLC, 1,750,000, 0 Turnpike St

Dina & Edward Bernstein, Yevheniy Fedin & Olena Fedina, 720,000, 11 Summit St Unit 11

Wendy Smith, Madison Gleason & Michael Gallagher, 538,000, 300 Dale St

Tara Gallant, Thao Tran, 270,000, 140 Kingston St Unit 140

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